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pus are abundant, and at least eleven species of lemurine monkeys were found. The carnivorous animals discovered numbered eleven species, some of which were as large as the jaguar, or larger. They are all quite distinct from living genera excepting one genus, which is related to the Asiatic civets. Some very small insectivora were also found, one of which is not larger than a small shrew. The waters of the lake abounded in turtles, crocodiles, and gar-fishes.

GEOGRAPHY AND EXPLORATION.

WHEELER'S RECONNAISSANCE OF SOUTHERN NEVADA. — This expedition spent six months in exploring southern and southwestern Nevada in 1869; the results, however, were not published until 1875. The report contains much new information regarding the Indian tribes and southern Mormon settlements. The chief geographical point of interest is the erasing of Preuss Lake from the maps, which was in 1872 found by Lieutenant Wheeler to be the southern shore of Sevier Lake.

AFRICAN TRAVEL. — An expedition to Central Africa up the Congo River, under Dr. Güssfeldt, failed to accomplish its object owing to the fact that the natives are poor carriers, and were in dread of meeting cannibals in the interior, as well as from the ill-health of Dr. Gussfeldt. Valuable collections were made, however.

THE PACIFIC COAST OF AMERICA. — Mr. A. L. Pinart, so well known for his researches in Alaska, partly in connection with Dr. W. H. Dall, has received a commission from the French government authorizing him to study the ethnology and languages of the southern races of the west coast of both North and South America. He is at present on a visit to the Indian reservations of Maine and Nova Scotia. Returning thence to San Francisco, he intends to sail for Valparaiso, with a view of determining if possible, besides other things, the source and direction of migration of the native American tribes of both hemispheres.

THE HIMALAYAS AND THEIR GLACIERS. — In Drew's late book, *The Jummoo and Kashmir Territories*, which is highly spoken of by *Nature*, much is said about the glaciers of the Himalayas; glaciers on a scale, as he says, not to be met with except in the Arctic regions. A glacier which he examined at Basha, in Baltistan, was upwards of twenty miles long, and others are to be met with of much greater extent; indeed to judge from the map, this northwest Himalayan region is one huge net-work of glaciers. The largest of all is the Baltoro glacier, thirty-five miles long, which comes down between two lofty ridges; the northern ridges rise in one spot to the height of 28,265 feet, the peak of that height being the second highest mountain known in the world. And yet, adds *Nature*, these glaciers are a mere remnant, the evidence seems to show, of the glacial covering which at one time spread over the Himalayan region.

NORDENSKIÖLD'S ARCTIC EXPEDITION intends in part to sail up the

Jenesej River with the view of returning to Europe across Siberia, while the other party returns to Norway by sea in the *Pröven*. The results are exceedingly rich, geographically, geologically, and in a zoological way. The Sea of Kara was found to be completely free of ice, and was thus crossed and dredged for the first time by a scientific expedition. The water at the surface of the Kara was so fresh as to kill the animals brought up from the bottom. The investigations on the ocean currents are of much interest. If, says the account in *Nature*, in the northern part of the Sea of Kara, where the water on the surface is almost completely *free of salt*, and at this time of the year very warm, a flask filled with water from the surface is sunk to a depth of ten fathoms, the water freezes to ice. There are thus no warm ocean currents here at any considerable depth below the surface. On the 8th of August the party landed on the peninsula of Jalmal, which separates the Sea of Kara from the Bay of Obi. Here traces of men, some of whom had gone barefoot, and of Samoyede sledges, were visible on the beach. Close to the shore was found a sacrificial altar, consisting of about fifty skulls of the white bear and walrus, with reindeer bones, etc., laid in a heap. In the middle of the heap of bones there stood, raised up, two idols, roughly hewn from driftwood roots, newly besmeared in the eyes and mouth with blood, also two poles provided with hooks, from which hung bones of the reindeer and bear. Close by was a fire-place and a heap of reindeer bones, the latter clearly a remnant of a sacrificial meal.

ARCTIC STATIONS.—Lieutenant Weyprecht has surprised geographers by his common-sense suggestion that hereafter Arctic explorers should aim to erect stations at different points in the Arctic regions where observers should make simultaneous observations, extending over the period of a whole year, with identical instruments and according to identical rules, giving their first attention to physics, meteorology, biology, and geology, and the second place to geographical discoveries. Accordingly, the German Commission on Arctic Explorations has recommended that a principal station be established on the east coast of Greenland, with secondary stations on Jan Meyer Island and the west coast of Spitzbergen.

MICROSCOPY.¹

A DOUBLE STAINING WITH HÆMATOXYLIN AND ANILINE. — When engaged last autumn in the Anatomical Department of the Oxford University Museum in making microscopic preparations of brain, my attention was especially directed to the staining of the sections.

My first attempts were made with hæmatoxylin and carmine. Of these the latter proved useful for detecting nuclei, but, the protoplasm of the cells remaining almost uncolored, it was impossible to distinguish the shape of the different cells, a matter of the greatest importance where, as in the

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